

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE 2004-2005 W-2 RFP and RFS

Sorted by published date, by topic

Q& A published on June 6, 2003 Consortiums

1. Question: If an RFS W-2 agency wants to propose a consortium that includes a geographic area that did not make RFS (County B), could the agency write a proposal for County B stating that it would add that County to a current or to-be-formed consortium without giving up RFS?

Answer: Yes. The proposal for County B, however, is not a consortium proposal and not eligible for 100 points. The proposal for County B will be evaluated with all other proposals that cover County B. The RFS agency does not lose its RFS status by proposing for County B. If the RFS agency is awarded County B, through the RFP process, it may be approved to form a consortium. (See RFP Part One, Section 2.7.2, Subsequent to the selection of 2004-2005 W-2 Agencies.)

If the RFS agency wishes to submit a consortium proposal, for its current geographic area and County B, the RFS agency must relinquish its RFS status as proposals may only be submitted for geographic areas that are open for competition.

Appendix D of the RFP will be amended if additional geographic areas become open for submission of competitive proposals.
2. Question: If several agencies form a consortium and operate out of several Job Centers, can a customer apply for W-2 at the Job Center that is closest to him/her even if it is not in his/her county of residence. (Example: Outagamie, Winnebago and Fond du Lac counties form a consortium. A customer lives closer to Oshkosh than Fond du Lac. Can he/she apply for W-2 in Oshkosh (Winnebago County) even though he/she lives in Fond du Lac County? Or would some FDL County staff have to locate in the Oshkosh Job Center and vice versa?

Answer: Yes, the customer should be able to apply for W-2 and Related Programs at any available service location within the consortium and receive services as long as one of the counties in the consortium is the individual's county of residence. The lead agency of the consortium would have to assure staffing at service sites in the consortium. The staff person, regardless of location, should be able to serve any resident of the consortium.

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3. Question: Can a consortium of agencies be changed by DWD (i.e., can a consortium of three agencies be reduced to two agencies if DWD sees this as advantageous)?
- Answer: It would not be the intent of the Department to do this; however, it's difficult to foresee all of the potential issues that may arise that might call upon the Department for resolution.
4. Question: Part of the reason given for Consortiums being consistent with Workforce Development Areas (WDA) was consistency in the provision of services and monitoring and that there would be consistency within DWD in managing and development of contracts by WDA. Who or what part of the system will provide contract management services? Is DWD considering a change in contract management and monitoring duties (for the Department's Contract Managers)?
- Answer: No change is anticipated. DWD assigns its contract managers by WDA. Some contract managers are responsible for more than one WDA.
5. Question: In a 10-county-wide Workforce Development Area (WDA), there are 7 Right of First Selection (RFS) agencies; if those 7 submit as RFS, could the 10 counties submit a consortium RFP at the competitive process? Or could the 7 RFS agencies do a consortium to include the 3?
- Answer: The RFS agencies will have to determine the best approach. The 7 RFS agencies (one lead agency) could submit their recontracting plan as a consortium. One lead agency could submit a proposal in the current RFP for the three non-RFS counties to be a consortium—if selected, then could mutually volunteer to attach itself/themselves to the 7 and request such in a proposal to the Department. A consortium proposal may not be submitted for the combination of RFS and open areas.
6. Question: If several counties form a consortium and there are two or more Job Centers in the WDA, can the consortium choose which Job Center(s) to locate the W-2 staff in, e.g., could they operate out of only one?
- Answer: The proposer agency needs to propose the best customer service for their program participants. This requires their assessment and plan for access to services by their customers.

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7. Question: Would there be points for an agency/county willing to be part of a consortium after knowing what decision the Right of First Selection (RFS) county (i.e.) declare?
- Answer: No, the points are awarded for consortium proposals.
8. Question: There is a rumor that after the Request for Proposals (RFP) are written, the State will require consortiums. Is there any truth to this? Thereby individual agencies are blindly writing RFPs at their expense.
- Answer: The RFP encourages consortiums and gives considerable point value to consortium proposals. Therefore, the State is interested in the development of consortiums for W-2 and Related Programs and hopes that several will result in response to this RFP. There is no intent to force consortiums where none have been proposed or are awarded; however, it's difficult to foresee all of the potential issues that may arise that might call upon the Department for resolution.
9. Question: Is the consortium push to encourage new vendors? If so, how likely is it that new consortiums that include for-profit agencies would be considered?
- Answer: The encouragement of consortiums is a result of the funding shortages, and the Governor's message in January-February, which addressed his concern for maintaining high administration costs in areas where the eligible population seemed so small and not to warrant it.
10. Question: Does a consortium have to complete a transition plan for a new W-2 geographic area if the plan is to subcontract with the current provider?
- Answer: Yes, because the Department is contracting with the lead agency and needs to know that the lead agency has a plan for transitioning into the area.
11. Question: If two or more private agencies were each interested in being the administrative agency in a consortium of several counties (geographic areas), they would submit competing proposals. Is it allowable for the counties to agree to participate in each proposed consortium (understanding that they would participate in only the winning proposal)?
- Answer: Yes.

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12. Question: Must the counties within a Workforce Development Area from which a consortium is formed be contiguous counties?

Answer: No.

13. Question: What is the due date for submittal of consortium proposals? RFP section 2.7.2 refers to "prior to selection of the 2004-2005 W-2 agencies" and also "subsequent to the selection of 2004-2005 W-2 Agencies" - does this mean there is more than one due date for consortium proposals?

Answer: All proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on June 27, 2003. Different options for creating a consortium may exist after the selection of the W-2 agencies for the areas that are open for competition. For example, an RFS agency could be awarded a geographic area, through the RFP, with which it would like to develop a consortium.

14. Question: What is the Department's date (or dates) for evaluating consortium proposals? Will the Department hold consortium proposals and evaluate them together after all consortium proposals are submitted?

Answer: All proposals, consortium or non-consortium will be evaluated together. The Department will issue Notices of Intent to Contract on or about August 4, 2003 based on the results of evaluating all of the proposals submitted by the above deadline.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE 2004-2005 W-2 RFP and RFS

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Q& A published on May 21, 2003

Consortiums

1. Question: Is it required that all of the W-2 geographic areas in a consortium be in the same Workforce Development Area (WDA)?

Answer: Yes, a W-2 consortium is a combination of W-2 geographic areas in the same WDA.

2. Question: If a proposer agency wishes to form a consortium, under this RFP and prior to the selection of the 2004-2005 W-2 agencies, how would the proposer submit its proposal for three geographic areas, counties A, B and C, (all of which are open for competition)? Would the proposer agency submit one proposal or three proposals?

Answer: If the proposer agency wishes to form a consortium for three geographic areas (A, B, and C) prior to the selection of the 2004-2005 W-2 agencies, the proposer agency could submit one proposal for the consortium. In this example, the proposer agency has a second option – to submit a proposal for each geographic area and if these proposals are selected, form a consortium subsequent to the selection of the 2004-2005 W-2 agencies. In the evaluation and scoring process, only the consortium proposal is eligible for the one hundred points.

3. Question: Is there any incentive funding for an existing consortium?

Answer: An existing consortium may request additional resources for a one-time cost to support the development of its infrastructure. The Department will evaluate the request based on the documentation provided by the consortium.